O CHRIST, OUR TRUE AND ONLY LIGHT

Hymn Devotion - November 6

Scripture – John 10:14-16

I John 2:8

O Christ, our true and only Light,  
Illumine those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear Thy voice,  
And in Thy fold with us rejoice.

Fill with the radiance of Thy grace  
The souls now lost in error’s maze,  
And all, O Lord, whose secret minds,  
Some dark delusion hurts and blinds.

And all who else have strayed from Thee,  
O gently seek; Thy healing be  
To every wounded conscience given;  
And let them also share Thy heaven.

O make the deaf to hear Thy Word;  
And teach the dumb to speak, dear Lord,  
Who dare not yet the faith avow  
Though secretly they hold it now.

Shine on the darkened and the cold;  
Recall the wanderers to Thy fold;  
Unite those now who walk apart;  
Confirm the weak and doubting heart.

So they with us may evermore  
Such grace with wondering thanks adore,  
And endless praise to Thee be given  
By all the Church in earth and Heaven.

Johann Heermann (1585-1647)

Translated by

Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

The stanza about the person who is deaf to the Word of God or dumb to the fact that they dare not avow or speak about God or their faith although they hold it secretly now – we are all like that to a point but there are some who protest that they don’t think there is a God or heaven or hell but they protest to much making us think that they secretly have the faith but are afraid to speak of it openly – If we know Jesus – Make the deaf to hear God’s Word.

1. How is Christ described?
2. Who are those who sit in night?
3. Who are we asking to hear His voice?
4. Where are we inviting them?   
   To do what?
5. Verse 2: Who are we asking to be filled with the radiance of Thy grace?
6. What are secret minds filled with?
7. Verse 3: Who do we want God to gently seek?
8. Who are to be healed?
9. What do we want them to share?
10. Verse4: Who do we want to hear Thy Word?
11. Who do we want taught to speak?
12. Why are they “dumb”? Avow is to state the truth.
13. What do they secretly do?
14. Verse 5: Who for God to shine on?
15. Who to be recalled?
16. Who to be united?
17. Who to confirm?
18. Verse 6: How do we adore?
19. Who will give endless praise to Thee?

GENTLE JESUS, MEEK AND MILD

Hymn Devotion – November 7

Scripture – Luke 18:15-17

John 1:36

Gentle Jesus, meek and mild,

Look upon a little child;

Pity my simplicity,

Suffer me to come to Thee.

Lamb of God, I look to Thee;

Thou shalt my example be:

Thou art gentle, meek and mild;

Thou wast once a little child.

Fain I would be as Thou art;

Give me Thine obedient heart:

Thou art pitiful and kind;

Let me fame Thy loving mind.

Loving Jesus, gentle Lamb,

In Thy gracious hands I am;

Make me, Savior, what Thou art,

Live Thyself within my heart.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

This can be thought of not just a child but a Christian that is in the beginning stages of knowing Jesus as Savior – we want the Savior to pity, show mercy on our simplicity and allow us to come to Thee. We want to be just like Jesus – we look to Him as an example of being gentle, meek, and mild – we want an obedient heart, to compassionate, kind, with a loving mind. If we will put ourselves in the gracious hands of Jesus – He will make us what He is and He himself will live within our hearts! Praise the Lord.

1. How is Jesus described?
2. Who are we asking Jesus to look upon?
3. What is to be pitied?
4. What do we want to happen?
5. Verse 2: Who do we look to?
6. What is Jesus to us?
7. What is Jesus?
8. What was Jesus once?
9. Verse 3: Fain – happily - What would we happily be?
10. What do we ask to be given?
11. What also is Jesus?
12. What do we also want to have?
13. Verse 4: How is Jesus described?
14. Where are we?
15. What do we want to be made?
16. Where do we want Jesus to live?

PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN

Hymn Devotion – November 8

Scripture – Psalm 103:1-5

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,

To His feet thy tribute bring;

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,

Evermore His praises sing.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor

To our fathers in distress;

Praise Him, still the same as ever,

Slow to chide, and swift to bless,

Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike, He tends and spares us;

Well our feeble frame He knows;

In His hands He gently bears us,

Rescues us from all our foes.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.

Frail as summer’s flower we flourish,

Blows the wind and it is gone;

But while mortals rise and perish

Our God lives unchanging on.

Praise Him! Praise Him! Hallelujah!

Praise the High Eternal One.

Angels in the height, adore Him;

Ye behold Him face to face;

Saints triumphant, bow before Him,

Gathered in from every race.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

What a wonderful comfort to have a God that never changes! Alleluia – Praise the Lord!

1. Who is our soul to praise?
2. What do we bring to His feet?
3. What happens at His feet?
4. What are we?
5. Verse 2: What are two things we are to praise Him for?

To whom?

1. To chide is to reprimand or scold.

What two things are same as ever?

1. What is glorious?
2. Verse 3: What does He do like a father?
3. What does He well know?
4. What does He do in His hands?
5. What flows widely?
6. Verse 4: How do we flourish?
7. What happens in the wind?
8. What do mortals do?
9. How does God live?
10. Who are we to praise?
11. Verse 5: Who adore in the height?
12. How do they behold Him?
13. Who are those in heaven?
14. Where are they gathered in from?
15. What do they do?

IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST

Hymn Devotion -November 9

Scripture – Galatians 3:28-29

Matthew 8:11

In Christ there is no East or West,  
In Him no South or North;  
But one great fellowship of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere  
Their high communion find;  
His service is the golden cord,  
Close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, members of the faith,  
Whatever your race may be!  
Who serves my Father as His child  
Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,  
In Him meet North and South;  
All Christly souls are one in Him  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ there is no East or West,  
In Him no South or North;  
But one great fellowship of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere  
Their high communion find;  
His service is the golden cord,  
Close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, members of the faith,  
Whatever your race may be!  
Who serves my Father as His child  
Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,  
In Him meet North and South;  
All Christly souls are one in Him  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ there is no east or west,

In Him no south or north;

But one great fellowship of love

Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere

Their high communion find;

His service is the golden cord

Close binding all mankind.

Join hands, then, brothers of the faith,

Whate’er your race may be.

Who serves my Father as a son

Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,

In Him meet south and north;

All Christly souls are one in Him

Throughout the whole wide earth.

John Oxenham (1852-1941)

William Arthur Dunkerley (real name)

This is a hymn calling for unity between Christian brothers of all races and this unity needs to be not only of races but of denominations. Some Christians view those of other denominations or of any denomination (some congregations are independent) as the “enemy.” We do have differences but we also have the “golden cord” of service to Christ that binds not only Christians but mankind. We are all kin in Him.

Let us in our service to God have open hearts and hands to those of all races and denominations so that we can have high communion with all Christly souls that are one in Him!

P.S. To extend this hymn farther than perhaps intended is to have open hearts and hands to non-Christians as well to welcome them with the hopes that they too will become brothers and sisters of the faith.

1. What are the boundaries in Christ? (use both statements)
2. What is there?
3. Where?
4. Verse 2: What will true hearts find?
5. What is the golden cord?
6. What does that cord do?
7. Verse 3: Who are to join hands?
8. Does race matter?
9. How do we serve the Father?
10. What are we as Christians?
11. Verse 4: What meets in Christ?
12. What meets in Him?
13. Who are one in Him?
14. Where?

GOD, IN THE GOSPEL OF HIS SON

Hymn Devotion - November 10

Scripture – 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Romans 1:9

God, in the Gospel of His Son,  
Makes His eternal counsels known;  
Where love in all its glory shines,  
And truth is drawn in fairest lines.

Here sinners of a humble frame  
May taste His grace, and learn His Name;  
May read, in characters of blood,  
The wisdom, power, and grace of God.

The prisoner here may break his chains;  
The weary rest from all his pains;  
The captive feel his bondage cease;  
The mourner find the way of peace.

Here faith reveals to mortal eyes  
A brighter world beyond the skies;  
Here shines the light which guides our way  
From earth to realms of endless day.

O grant us grace, Almighty Lord,  
To read and mark Thy holy Word;  
Its truths with meekness to receive,  
And by Its holy precepts live.

Benjamin Beddome (1717-1795)

Thomas Cotterill (1779-1823)

The Gospel of God’s Son – God’s Holy Word – is as vital today as it was when it was inspired by God to the writers centuries ago – the precepts – the instruction fits today’s needs – we have to in faith read and mark the Bible to our lives – tasting His grace and learning His Name – this is not learned in a day, week or month it takes a lifetime!

1. Where God is made known?
2. What does God make known?
3. What does love do?
4. How is truth drawn?
5. Verse 2: How are we as sinners?
6. What will we taste?
7. What will we learn?
8. What are the characters of the blood of Christ?
9. Verse 3: What happens here for:

The Prisoner –

The Weary-

The captive-

The mourner-

1. Verse 4: What does it take to have the gospel revealed to mortal eyes?
2. What is revealed?
3. What shines?
4. Where does it guide us?
5. Verse 5: What from the Lord do we want to be granted?
6. What to do?
7. How are we to receive its truths?
8. What are we to do?

Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God;  
Will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the Word?  
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;  
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Brethren, see poor sinners round you slumbering on the brink of woe;  
Death is coming, hell is moving, can you bear to let them go?  
See our fathers and our mothers, and our children sinking down;  
Brethren, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses’ sister aided him;  
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?  
Tell them all about the Savior, tell them that He will be found;  
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace, and filled with tears?  
Is there here a weeping Mary, pouring forth a flood of tears?  
Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound;  
Pray, Oh pray that holy manna may be scattered all around.

Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too;  
Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new.  
Then He’ll call us home to Heaven, at His table we’ll sit down;  
Christ will gird Himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God;  
Will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the Word?  
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